

role of Beech Springs Baptist Church has always remained the same—to be a place where members of the community can go to worship and where all those who enter will find Christian love, fellowship and guidance. I have attended this church many times, and it is evident to me that God truly works through the people of Beech Springs Baptist Church.

Throughout its long history, Beech Springs Baptist Church has bonded together through its faith in Christ to persevere through local tragedies as well as difficult times in our nation's history such as the Great Depression and war. However, the church has also been a place of great celebration and joy. Countless Sunday morning worship services, baptisms, weddings and revivals have been held there, and I am confident that many more will take part over the next century.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Beech Springs Baptist Church, which will celebrate this landmark anniversary on July 22, 2007, for its efforts to be a source of Christian love, strength, and comfort over the past 100 years and for its desire to continue serving Christ in the Quitman community.

BEHIND EVERY MAN, THERE'S A LADY BIRD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, my grandmother influenced my life in so many ways and she educated me in the ways of the world more than anyone in my life, but to her dismay I broke from her staunchest southern belief—the Democratic Party. I don't know that she ever forgave me for being a Republican and during the 60s, in the heyday of LBJ, she was aghast that anyone could be anything else. Despite my political difference with President Lyndon Johnson, his contributions to Texas as President may only be surpassed by those of his First Lady. This week we said goodbye to one of the finest southern ladies politics and Texas has ever had the pleasure of knowing, Lady Bird Johnson.

My grandmother always said, “there is nothing more powerful than a woman—that has made up her mind!” There are no truer words; and none that describe our former First Lady better. Claudia Alta Taylor Johnson, known throughout the world simply as Lady Bird, not only changed the landscape of Texas highways, but paved the way for the next generation of women. She was the best example of the powerful role women of her generation played—second to my grandmother of course.

While Lady Bird will best be remembered for her love of the environment and the preservation of our natural resources, she was no wallflower in the business and political world either. She was her husband's staunchest supporter and was with him step-for-step throughout his entire career, but at the same time she also carved a path for herself in the business world by turning a debt-ridden Austin radio station into a multi-million dollar broadcast empire. Her resume reads like that of a modern-day Superwoman. Among her many achievements, she played a pivotal part in shaping legislation by lobbying and speaking before

Congress in support of the Highway Beautification Bill, or better known as the “Lady Bird Bill.” She oversaw every detail in the creation of the LBJ Presidential Library, which became the model for Presidential libraries today, and served faithfully, and often in awe of her colleagues, as a regent of her alma mater, the University of Texas.

Like my grandmother she came from a generation of women that were strong and influential. They possessed the grace of an angel, but wielded a heavy-hand in running their affairs—and those of their husbands' for that matter. Few women of their generation worked outside the home, but few men succeeded without the backing of them. Whether they devoted their time to their work or to their home, their influence undoubtedly changed the country we live in today. Texas Congressman Sam Rayburn, longtime friend of President Johnson and House Speaker, once told him, “marrying Lady Bird was the wisest decision he had ever made.” Few people know that Lady Bird originally told LBJ “no,” when he asked to marry her.

Every Spring folks will head up Highway 290 to see wildflowers; and every bluebonnet we see throughout the Texas Hill Country and every tree we plant here at home along Will Clayton Parkway is a tribute to Lady Bird and her determination to “Keep Texas Beautiful.” Her legacy and influence will live on forever. I doubt that Texas, nor our country, will ever know a finer lady and patriot than we had in Lady Bird Johnson. As the saying goes, behind every good man, there stands a better woman. May God bless Lady Bird Johnson as she has blessed us.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT NICHOLSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Robert Nicholson of Alexandria, VA, on being awarded the Air Force Association's DW Steele Chapter “Teacher of the Year Award.”

A teacher at Alexandria County Public Schools since 1984, Mr. Nicholson has taught earth sciences, oceanography and astronomy and is also the Earth Sciences Division coordinator at TC Williams High School.

Mr. Nicholson's creative approach to education allows him to teach a variety of classes using hands-on learning that captivates students while enriching their learning experience. Deputy Superintendent of Alexandria County Public Schools, Cathy David, praised Mr. Nicholson not only for his outstanding work in enhancing the science curriculum at TC Williams but also for mentoring fellow teachers, ensuring consistency and rigor in the science curriculum.

In addition to the courses he teaches Mr. Nicholson is planetarium director at TC Williams High School and is known to use his free time to give shows to students outside his astronomy classes and also gives informative and entertaining presentations to middle and elementary school students from Alexandria City Public Schools and area private schools.

Fellow colleagues from all disciplines frequently ask Mr. Nicholson to present planetarium shows that relate to their specific content needs.

Mr. Nicholson is truly an asset to the students he inspires and the lives he shapes in the Eighth District of Virginia. I congratulate him on being awarded this great honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2007”

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, you know Americans are rightly worried about the security of their personal information, including their Social Security number. Practically a day doesn't go by when we don't read about or hear about another data breach in the private or public sector where hundreds if not thousands of people's personal identity information is stolen.

According to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, the total number of known records that have been compromised since January 2005 through last week was over 158 million.

The fact is that even though Social Security numbers were created to track earnings for determining eligibility and benefit amounts under Social Security, these numbers are widely used as personal identifiers. According to the Government Accountability Office, Social Security numbers have become the “identifier of choice” and are used for every day business transactions. In fact, in their April 2007 report, the President's Identity Theft Task Force identified the Social Security number as the “most valuable commodity for an identity thief.”

These thieves are hard at work. According to the latest data provided by Federal Trade Commission, over a one year period nearly 10 million people, or about 5 percent of the adult population, discovered they were victims of identity theft. Even worse, the true number of victims of this devastating crime is unknown, since most victims do not report the crime.

Losses due to ID thefts have been estimated to exceed \$50 billion annually. Victims spend roughly 300 million hours a year trying to re-establish their hard-earned credit and clearing their good name.

Even worse, identity theft continues to threaten our national security. As said in the 9/11 Commission Report, “Fraud in identification documents is no longer just a problem of theft. At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.”

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security has been working on a bipartisan basis to protect the privacy of Social Security numbers and prevent identity theft since the 106th Congress when it first approved the Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2000, to restrict the sale and public display of Social Security numbers. This legislation was introduced on a bipartisan basis by then Subcommittee Chairman Clay Shaw and then Ranking Member,